

CHANGE in Class.

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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

This document is hereby regraded to
 CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
 letter of 16 October 1978 from the
 Director of Central Intelligence to the
 Archivist of the United States.

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DIST. 17 December 1946

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COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENT

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COUNTRY Palestine

SUBJECT Functions of the Arab Higher Committee

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ORIGIN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(a) Treasury Department:

Accepts and deposits contributions to the cause. It appears that this department is intended eventually to enlarge its activities to handle all the funds of the Executive, whether contributed locally or from abroad. The Director of the Department is Dr. 'Izzat Tanus, former Secretary-General of the Arab Higher Committee.

Integrated in this Department appears to be a beginning of a "Department of Land," functioning at present under Dr. Tanus' supervision. It appears to be operating in cooperation with the Umma Fund (Ahmad Hilmi Pasha's) and, when finally organized, might be expected to carry out the Land Development Schema (Musa Alami's). This Department's first action is said to have been the saving of an Arab village, which was about to be bought by the Jews. LP 30,000 is said to have been borrowed by the Department against promissory notes for the purpose. The village, which is near Haifa, has been renamed al-Amina, in commemoration of the Mufti's safe return to the Arab world. It is reported that Dr. Husayn Khalidi* aspires to direct the Department eventually.

*Dr. Husayn Khalidi is the leader of the Reform Party and Secretary of the AHE.

(b) Youth Councils:

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The Council is believed to have been set up by the Mufti to bring about cooperation, if not fusion, of the two para-military groups, Najjedah and Yihawwa. The Council functions under the chairmanship of Rafiq al-Tawini, with Emil Ghuri and Nizar al-Hawari (Commander of the Najjedah) as members (see [REDACTED]). Inasmuch as Emil Ghuri is a member of the AHE as well, it is presumed that he serves as a contact between these organizations and the Executive. He is sometimes informally referred to as Minister of Defense.

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(c) Economic Higher Council:

This Council, made up of representatives of various Arab Chambers of Commerce and prominent Arab merchants, is carrying out AHE's policies in matters of boycott, and endeavors to procure the necessary commodities for such shortages as might have been caused by the enforcement of the boycott.

(d) The Arab Office:

At present this organization is an independent one. However, in its policy it fully cooperates with the Executive. It is expected, speculatively speaking, that with the enlargement of the AHE, the Arab Office's founder and Director, Musa Alami, will not only become a member of the Executive, but will continue to direct the Arab Office's functions in closer and stricter conformance to the Executive's policies. The members of the Arab Office like to refer to their organization as the Foreign Office and to Musa Alami as the potential Foreign Minister. Musa Alami's reluctance to re-enter actively the political arena of Palestine is well known. However, his friends and followers insist that he will be prevailed upon to accept.

2. Such terms as the "Shadow Government of Palestine" have appeared in the press, with reference to establishment of a Palestine Arab Government with the Mufti as its head. There are no indications, however, that such plans exist, despite the fact that some politically minded Arabs refer to the "Government in Exile" conversationally. It is believed that the departmental breakdown of the AHE, with its apparent similarity to a cabinet set-up, is responsible for such inferences.

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~~Comment: Other sources have reported that such plans are underway, with the organizational structure already decided upon by the Mufti and his cohorts.~~

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